

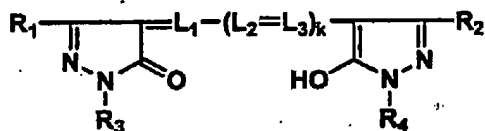
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Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:  
exposing a silver halide photographic material and  
processing the photographic material,  
wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by the following formula (1) and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (1)



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wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{COR}_5$ ,  $\text{COOR}_6$   $[[-\text{COOR}]]$  or  $-\text{CONR}_7\text{R}_8$ ;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  are each a methine group and  $k$  is 2, provided that the respective  $-\text{L}_2=\text{L}_3-$  may be the same or different;  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

**2. (Currently Amended)** An image forming method comprising:  
exposing a silver halide photographic material and  
processing the photographic material,  
wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and is exposed by, scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes  $a$  and  $b$  of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said  $a$  and  $b$  are defined in

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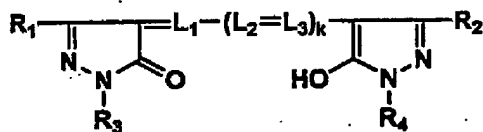
JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

**3. (Currently Amended)** An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and  
processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (1) as claimed in claim 1, the photographic material is exposed by scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722;

formula (1)



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{COR}_5$ ,  $\text{COOR}_6$  or  $-\text{CONR}_7\text{R}_8$ ;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an

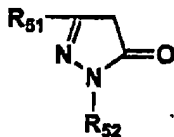
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aryl group or a heterocyclic group;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  are each a methine group and  $k$  is 2, provided that the respective  $-L_2=L_3-$  may be the same or different;  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

formula (2)

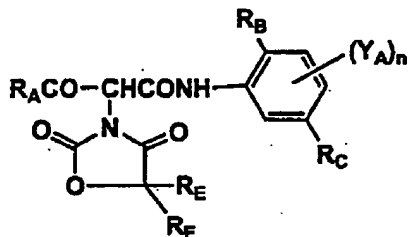


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wherein  $R_{S1}$  is a carbonamide group or an anilino group;  $R_{S2}$  is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



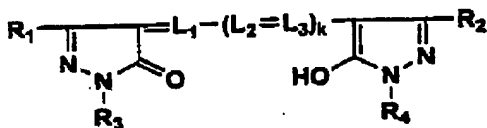
wherein  $R_A$  is an alkyl group;  $R_B$  is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group;  $R_C$  is  $\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{COOR}_{D2}\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{NHCOR}_{D2}\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$  or  $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{R}_{D1}$ , in which  $\text{R}_{D1}$  is a univalent organic group,  $\text{R}_{D2}$  is an alkylene group and  $\text{R}_{D3}$  is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom;  $\text{Y}_A$  is a univalent organic group;  $n$  is 0 or 1;  $\text{R}_E$  and  $\text{R}_F$  are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

7. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (1) ~~as claimed in~~

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~~claim 1~~ and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722;

formula 1



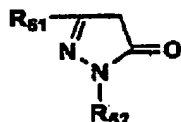
wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each  $-CN$ ,  $-COR_5$ ,  $COOR_6$  or  $-CONR_7R_8$ ;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  are each a methine group and  $k$  is 2, provided that the respective  $-L_2=L_3-$  may be the same or different;  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$

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and R<sub>9</sub> are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

8. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (2) as claimed in claim 5 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722;

formula (2)



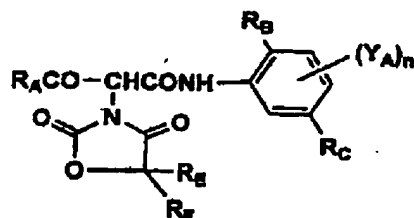
wherein R<sub>51</sub> is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R<sub>52</sub> is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

9. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support

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and contains a compound represented by formula (3) ~~as claimed in claim 6~~ and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722;

formula (3)



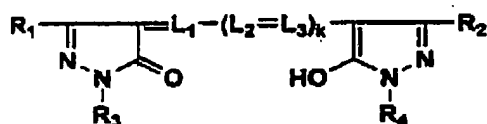
wherein R<sub>A</sub> is an alkyl group; R<sub>B</sub> is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R<sub>C</sub> is COOR<sub>D1</sub>, -COOR<sub>D2</sub>COOR<sub>D1</sub>, -NHCOR<sub>D2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>D1</sub>, -N(R<sub>D3</sub>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>D1</sub> or -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sub>D3</sub>)R<sub>D1</sub>, in which R<sub>D1</sub> is a univalent organic group, R<sub>D2</sub> is an alkylene group and R<sub>D3</sub> is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y<sub>A</sub> is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R<sub>E</sub> and R<sub>F</sub> are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

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11. (Currently Amended) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (1):

formula (1)

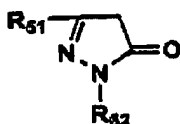


wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{COR}_3$ ,  $\text{COOR}_6$   $[[-\text{COOR}]]$  or  $-\text{CONR}_7\text{R}_8$ ;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  are each a methine group and  $k$  is 2, provided that the respective  $-L_2=L_3-$  may be the same or different;  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

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12. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

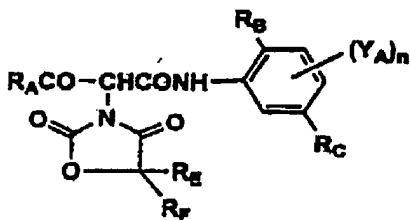
formula (2)



wherein R<sub>51</sub> is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R<sub>52</sub> is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein R<sub>A</sub> is an alkyl group; R<sub>B</sub> is a halogen atom or an

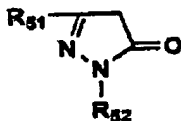
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alkoxy group;  $R_c$  is  $\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{COOR}_{D2}\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{NHCOR}_{D2}\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$  or  $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{R}_{D1}$ , in which  $\text{R}_{D1}$  is a univalent organic group,  $\text{R}_{D2}$  is an alkylene group and  $\text{R}_{D3}$  is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom;  $\text{Y}_A$  is a univalent organic group;  $n$  is 0 or 1;  $\text{R}_E$  and  $\text{R}_F$  are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than  $6.2 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

formula (2)



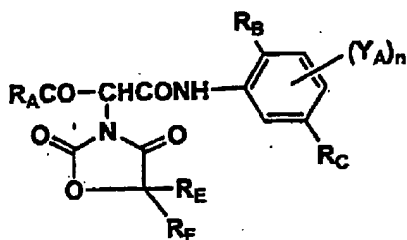
wherein  $\text{R}_{51}$  is a carbonamide group or an anilino group;  $\text{R}_{52}$  is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented

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by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein R<sub>A</sub> is an alkyl group; R<sub>B</sub> is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R<sub>C</sub> is COOR<sub>D1</sub>, -COOR<sub>D2</sub>COOR<sub>D1</sub>, -NHCOR<sub>D2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>D1</sub>, -N(R<sub>D3</sub>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>D1</sub> or -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sub>D3</sub>)R<sub>D1</sub>, in which R<sub>D1</sub> is a univalent organic group, R<sub>D2</sub> is an alkylene group and R<sub>D3</sub> is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y<sub>A</sub> is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R<sub>B</sub> and R<sub>F</sub> are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.